

## A SECOND RECORD OF *XIPHYDRIA LONGICOLLIS* (GEOFFROY) (HYMENOPTERA: XIPHYDRIIDAE) IN BRITAIN

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On 3.ix.91 a single female of the woodwasp *Xiphydria longicollis* (Geoff.) was seen on the trunk of an oak tree (*Quercus robur* L.) at the Royal Horticultural Society's Garden, Wisley, Surrey (TQ 063 580). The tree was alive but in a moribund condition, possibly as a result of damage to the roots in the 1987 and 1990 storms. The tree, which has a diameter of 45 cm at a height of 1 m, had sparse foliage and branches which were dying back. There were a number of places on the trunk where sap was oozing from the bark and the woodwasp was found on one of these areas at the base of the tree on the sunny side of the trunk. Other notable insects seen on this tree were the buprestid beetle, *Agrilus pannonicus* (Pill. & Mitt.) on 8.viii.91, and the platypodid beetle, *Platypus cylindrus* (F.) on 21.viii.91, both of which were breeding in the trunk.

The Natural History Museum has in its collections a specimen of *X. longicollis* that was part of a donation received from the Entomological Club in 1844. There is, however, no label to indicate when or where it was taken. Apart from this unattributable specimen, *X. longicollis* was unknown in Britain until Professor J. A. Owen bred two females from a log of field maple (*Acer campestre* L.) collected in January 1984 in Windsor Great Park, Berkshire (Shaw & Liston, 1985). He kept the log in an unheated outbuilding and the woodwasps emerged during July 1984. These specimens may have emerged earlier than usual through having been kept in sheltered conditions but mid-summer is the normal flight period for the two other British *Xiphydria* species; early September when the Wisley specimen was taken could well be an unusually late date.

Shaw & Liston (1985) speculated that the existence of the specimen in the Natural History Museum and the location that Owen's specimens came from could indicate that *X. longicollis* is part of Britain's relic insect fauna rather than a recent introduction. Wisley Garden has yielded a number of beetles and flies associated with ancient woodland or old parkland trees, although the garden itself and the surrounding land does not come into either category. If *X. longicollis* is a recent arrival, it should start to be found more frequently. It is certainly big enough to be noticed, since the female taken at Wisley has a length of 20 mm, including the sawsheath, and a wing span of 30 mm. It is mainly black with creamy white markings on the head and similarly coloured wedge-shaped markings on the sides of the abdominal segments. Its coloration and size resembles that of *X. camelus* (L.), which seems to be the most common of the three British *Xiphydria* species. The basal parts of the tibia and the basitarsus are white on the hind legs of female *longicollis* whereas these parts are reddish brown in female *camelus*. Other differences are given by Shaw & Liston (1985). *Xiphydria longicollis* occurs widely in Europe, where it has been recorded as breeding in oak (Smith, 1978).—A. J. Halstead, 17 Highclere Gardens, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2LP.

### REFERENCES

- Shaw, M. R. & Liston, A. D. 1985. *Xiphydria longicollis* (Geoffroy) (Hymenoptera: Xiphydriidae) new to Britain. *Ent. Gaz.* 36: 233–235.  
Smith, D. R. 1978. *Hymenopterorum Catalogus Pars 14, Symphyta* 193 pp. The Hague.

[This specimen of *Xiphydria longicollis* was photographed at the Society's Annual Exhibition, 26 October 1991, and will appear in one of the colour plates to be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal*.]